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Appropriation for Apache Indians. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, asking an appropriation for subsisting the Apache Indians of Arizona and New Mexico the remainder of the present year.

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APPROPRIATION FOR APACHE INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

ASKING

An appropriation for subsisting the Apache Indians of Arizona and New Mexico the remainder of the present year.

JANUARY 8, 1872.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., December 18, 1871.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication of this date from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs requesting an appropriation of \$125,000 for subsisting the Apache Indians of Arizona and New Mexico during the remainder of the present fiscal year. The necessity of this appropriation is fully reported in the Commissioner's letter, and I commend the subject to the early and favorable consideration of Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,
Secretary.

Hon. JAMES G. BLAINE,
Speaker House of Representatives, United States Capitol.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., December 18, 1871.

SIR: I have the honor to recommend that Congress be asked to make appropriation at the earliest practical date in the sum of \$125,000 for subsisting the Apaches of Arizona and New Mexico during the remainder of the fiscal year.

By the act of March 3, 1871, appropriation was made in the sum of \$70,000 for the expense of collecting and subsisting the Apaches, then roaming in a predatory and hostile manner over the two Territories mentioned. Of this sum there is now remaining only about \$12,000

The appropriation thus made was an appropriation for an experiment merely. Only inconsiderable bands of these Indians had, up to that time, been reached by the agencies of the Indian Department, and it was wholly uncertain whether the efforts proposed for bringing the whole nation upon reservations, and there subsisting them until they could be taught the methods of industry and the habits of civilized life, would meet even the first degree of encouragement. The sum appropriated in March, therefore, was ample for the purposes of the experiment under such conditions of uncertainty, but would, of course, be found wholly inadequate to the maintenance of the Indians should the experiment result in any considerable success.

The efforts put forth in this direction during the summer have resulted in success so far that there are now under the care and at the charge of the Indian Department closely in the neighborhood of three thousand Apaches (including the Jicarillas on the borders of Colorado) upon reservations within the superintendency of New Mexico, while considerable bodies are being subsisted by the military authorities at Camp Grant, Arizona, the expenses of such subsistence being charged against the Indian service.

The number thus supported by the Government is increasing, and is certain to increase, except in the single contingency of a general Indian war throughout that region. Early provision is therefore required for their maintenance. The present rate of expenditure is between \$12,000 and \$15,000 a month. In the event of the complete success of the policy adopted, the monthly expenditures must be expected to rise to \$25,000. When it is considered that nearly a million and a half a year is appropriated for the Sioux, numbering 27,000, this provision for the 7,500 Apaches of Arizona and New Mexico will not appear extravagant.

Nothing could be more unfortunate than to have the Indians who have thus been gathered upon reservations through the efforts undertaken last spring again scattered on account of a temporary failure of supplies. Should the four thousand Apaches now gathered at Camp Grant, Cañada Alamosa, and Fort Stanton be dismissed in the depth of winter from the reservations to which they have been gathered under the invitations and pledges of the Government, the most disastrous consequences must ensue. Inasmuch as the first month of war, or even of warlike preparation, would involve an expenditure far exceeding the cost of feeding all the Apaches of the two Territories the year round, I venture to urge the importance of early provision being made to subsist the Indians already on reservations in Arizona and New Mexico, and to carry out the plans of the Department for gathering in the bands still at large.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. A. WALKER,
Commissioner.

Hon. C. DELANO,
Secretary of the Interior.